

Anne Peat
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee

(via email: petitions@scottish.parliament.uk)

Date 24 January 2013
Your Ref
Our Ref BM/CD/L2401

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Dear Ms Peat

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1404

Thank you for your letter of 11 January 2013 seeking information from NHS Fife regarding its performance in relation to the target on provision of insulin pumps to the under 18s.

NHS Fife currently has 200 patients under the age of 18 with Type 1 diabetes. To date 35 have been started on pumps giving an attainment of 17.5% against the target of 25%, a shortfall of 15 patients. While further starts are anticipated, it is unlikely that the target will be met by the deadline.

There are no patients on a waiting list in Fife; the pump service is available and has been offered to all suitable patients. Following a detailed assessment and education process, those patients and families who are deemed suitable and able to cope with the demands of a pump are commenced on pump therapy.

Clinicians in NHS Fife remain committed to the provision of insulin pumps to all suitable patients willing and able to use pumps and we anticipate a continuing steady rise in uptake. The limiting factor is not funding or availability of pumps but the identification and selection of suitable patients and families.

I hope this response provides the information required and reassures you of NHS Fife's commitment to the safe and clinically appropriate use of insulin pumps in under 18s.

Yours sincerely

DR BRIAN MONTGOMERY
Medical Director NHS Fife

